

County Snapshot

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Madera County is located in the exact center of California in the heart of the Central Valley and the Central Sierras, and is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Fresno County borders on the south, Mariposa and Merced counties on the north, and Mono County to the east.

Between 1990 and 1999, Madera County's population increased by 36.3 percent. A projected population of 224,600 persons by the year 2020 will amount to an impressive increase of 151 percent over the 1990 population figure of 89,300.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for Madera County to be 52,700 with an unemployment rate of 11.7 percent. Agriculturally oriented counties tend to have higher unemployment rates and greater seasonal variations in unemployment. The state's unemployment rate is 5.2 percent for the same year.

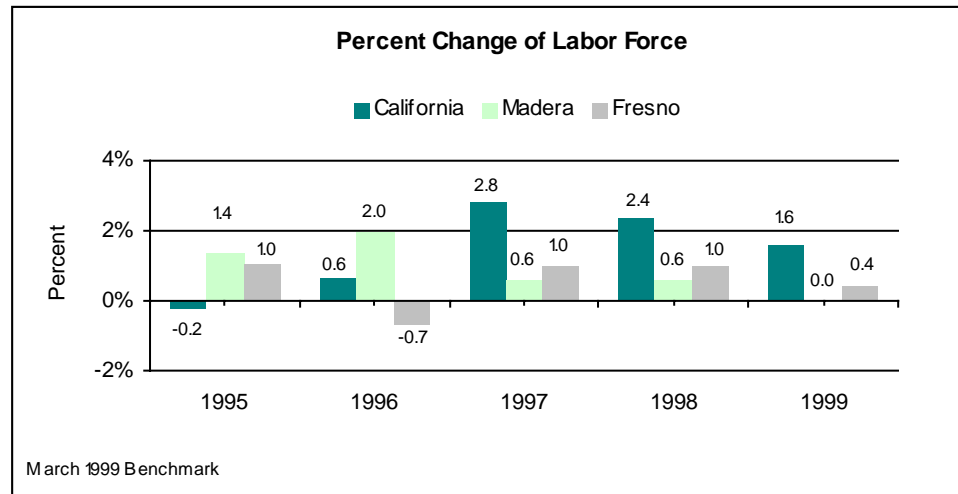
Agriculture is the largest industry in the county, accounting for 29.9 percent of the employment. Government, another significant sector, accounts for 19.5 percent and services makes up 16.8 percent of the total.

Manufacturing, services, and government are the industries that will provide most of the jobs in Madera's future economy. Manufacturing is projected to provide 1,720 new jobs by 2002, a 50 percent increase from 1995. Services shows a projected growth of 2,200 new jobs with most of the job growth in the health services sector. Government is projected to provide 860 new jobs, a 14 percent increase, with the growth occurring at the state and local government level.

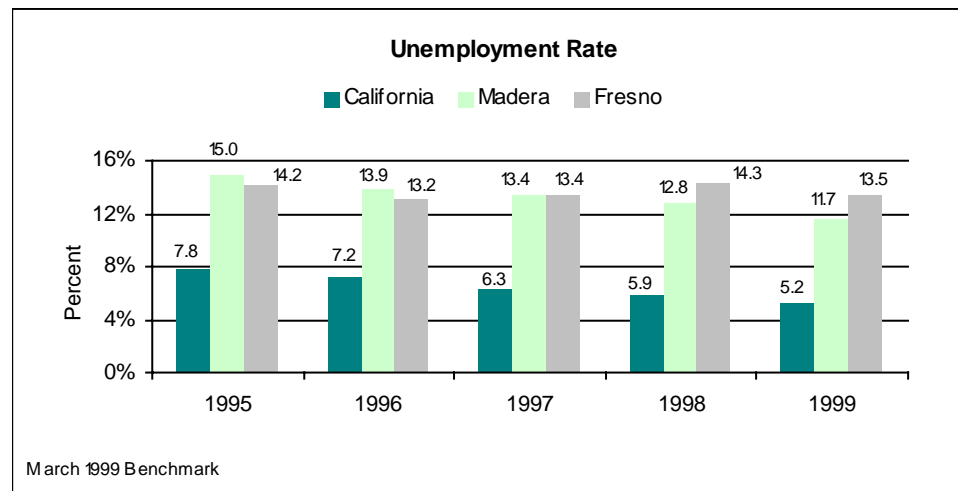
Madera County is projected to grow at a rapid pace and the growing population will need a range of goods and services that should, ultimately, fuel the regional economy.

LABOR FORCE

Madera County's civilian labor force posted 2.0 percent growth in 1996, compared to 0.6 percent for the State. Over this period, 1995 – 1999, Madera's labor force increased by 3.1 percent. Neighboring Fresno County recorded 1.7 percent growth during the same period.

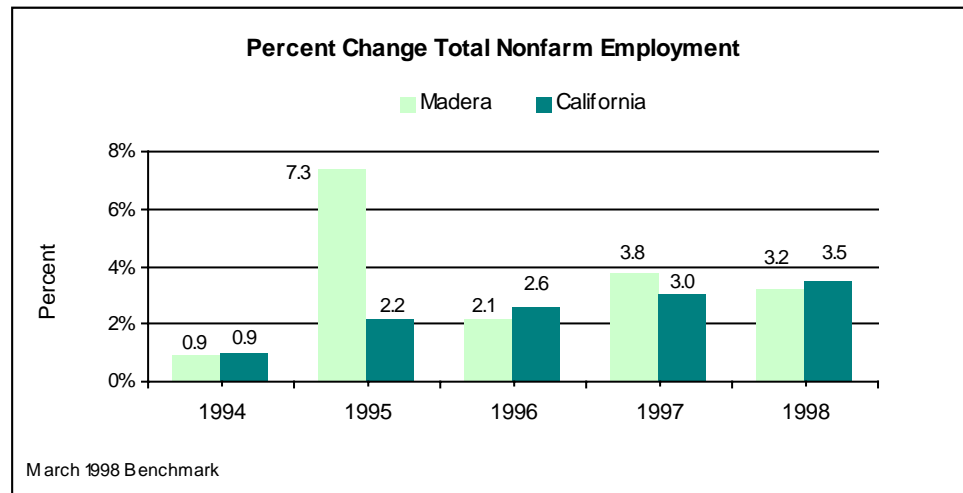


Historically, the unemployment rate for both Madera and Fresno counties has been higher than the rate for the State. However, Madera's rate began to decline in 1996 and the trend continues. The unemployment rate for Madera County dropped to 11.7 percent in 1999, 3.3 percent lower than the high of 15 percent recorded in 1995.

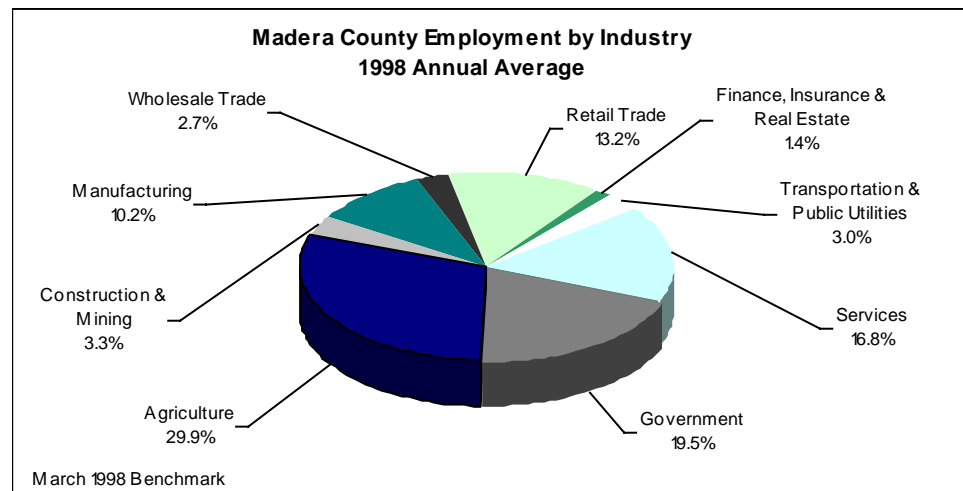


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Madera County nonfarm wage and salary employment flourished with a significant 7.3 percent growth rate in 1995 due, in part, to gains in the trade and services sectors. Over the period, 1994 -1998, payroll employment grew by 3,800 jobs or 17.4 percent compared to 11.7 percent growth for the state.



In 1998, Madera County employment was dominated by the agricultural, government and services sectors. Projections for this area indicate that manufacturing, services, and government will account for an overwhelming 91.2 percent of the 5,240 job growth forecast from 1995 to 2002.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Madera County is projected to have employment opportunities in the high turnover occupations and also in the more technologically advanced categories.

Associated Occupations	MANUFACTURING
	1995-2002 Projected Growth 50%
	Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters – 110 job openings. Cut, shape and assemble wooden articles, such as store fixtures, office equipment, cabinets, and high grade furniture. Set up and operate a variety of machines to cut and shape parts from wood stock. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.36
	Assemblers, Fabricators-Except Machine, Electrical – 90 job openings. Assemble and/or fit together parts to form complete units or subassemblies at a bench, conveyor line, or on the floor. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.28
	General Managers, Top Executives – 70 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$25.40
	Maintenance Repairers, General Utility – 50 job openings. Perform work involving two or more maintenance skills to keep the machines, mechanical equipment, and/or structure of an establishment in repair. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.33
	Welders and Cutters – 50 job openings. Use flamecutting, hand, arc, and gas welding equipment, and gas torches, to weld together metal components of such products as pipelines, autos, boilers and ships, or join together components of fabricated sheet metal assemblies. Post- secondary vocational education. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.64

Associated Occupations	SERVICES
	1995-2002 Projected Growth 43%
	Registered Nurses – 440 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage – \$22.55
	Nurse Aides, Orderlies, Attendants – 160 job openings. Help care for physically or mentally ill, injured, disabled, or infirm individuals confined to hospitals and residential care facilities. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.37
	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners – 110 job openings. Perform any combination of tasks to maintain rooms in commercial establishments, such as hotels, restaurants and hospitals, in a clean and orderly fashion. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage \$6.52
	Licensed Vocational Nurses – 90 job openings. Care for ill, injured, convalescent, and handicapped persons in hospitals, clinics, private homes, sanitariums, and similar institutions. Post-secondary vocational education. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.97
	Secretaries General - 60 job openings. Schedule appointments, give information to callers, take dictation, compose and type routine correspondence, read and route incoming mail, and file correspondence and other records. Post Secondary Vocational Education. Median Hourly Wage - \$11.74

Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT
	1995-2002 Projected Growth 14%
	Corrections Officers and Jailers – 220 job openings. Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.01
	Teachers, Vocational Education and Training – 20 job openings. Teach or instruct vocational and/or occupational subjects at the post-secondary level to students who have graduated or left high school. Teach subjects such as business, secretarial science, data processing, trades, or practical nursing. Work experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$14.98
	Fire Fighters – 20 job openings. Control and extinguish fires, protect life and property, as employees of city, township, State or Federal Government. Long-term on-the job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.89
	Police Patrol Officers – 20 job openings. Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, protect life and property in an assigned patrol district or beat. Patrol on foot or in a vehicle; investigate accidents; apprehend, arrest and process prisoners; and give evidence in court. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.15
	General Managers, Top Executives – 10 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$25.40

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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Labor Market Information Division
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